

ACTION ASSIGNED TO <i>CCR</i>		ACTION TAKEN <i>Handled orally in Administrative Group meetings in Washington</i>	
NAME OF OFFICER & OFFICE SYMBOL <i>Col. Holt-Hubert</i>		DATE OF ACTION	DIRECTIONS TO RM/R <i>For</i>

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET

-2- 1671, JANUARY 15, 11 PM FROM BONN

IN MY ESTIMATION, IMMEDIATE PROBLEM IS TO ASSURE GERMANS OF OUR RESOLUTE REJECTION OF GROMYKO'S IDEAS. WE THINK BEST WAY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS WOULD BE TO ENCOURAGE GERMANS TO REPLY PROMPTLY AND VIGOROUSLY TO DECEMBER 27 MEMO; THIS WOULD HAVE ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGE OF BEING GOOD INSTRUMENT FOR SETTING FORTH PUBLICLY MAXIMUM WESTERN POSITIONS. FOLLOWING A FIRST INITIAL INCLINATION TO IGNORE SOVIET MEMO, FONOFF IS NOW CONSIDERING ADVISABILITY OF REPLY, AND I FEAR HESITATION ON OUR PART WOULD ONLY ENCOURAGE THOSE ELEMENTS OF GERMAN OPINION FAVORABLE TO AN INDEPENDENT INITIATIVE TO ARGUE AGAINST FORECLOSING ANY AVENUE FOR PROTECTION OF GERMAN INTERESTS.

IN BRIEF, INITIATIVE LIES WITH US. I AM CONFIDENT GERMANS WILL FOLLOW OUR FIRM LEAD.

DOWLING

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